

# Public Notice: Request for Comments

## Proposed Issuance of a Solid Waste Composting Facility Registration Permit for the Crook County Landfill in Prineville



State of Oregon  
Department of  
Environmental  
Quality

The purpose of this notice is to invite you to make written comments on the proposed issuance of this compost Registration Permit.

### DEQ's Role:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, for cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and for managing the proper disposal of hazardous and solid wastes. One way DEQ does this is by requiring permits for certain activities. DEQ issues composting permits in order to regulate operation of these facilities to minimize nuisance conditions, and/or any impacts to the environment or public health.

**Notice issued:** July 19, 2010.

**Comments due:** 5:00pm, August 18, 2010.

### Where can I send my comments or get technical information?

Shari Harris-Dunning  
Natural Resource Specialist  
541-633-2010 or Toll Free: 866-863-6668  
475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110  
Bend, OR 97701  
Fax Number: 541-388-8283  
E-mail: [Shari Harris-Dunning](mailto:Shari.Harris-Dunning)

### Where can I get background information?

You can review electronic versions of the draft permit and review report by clicking on the links below:

[Draft Permit Evaluation Report](#)

You can review hard copies of the draft permit and related documents at the DEQ office in Bend located at 475 NE Bellevue Drive, Suite 110. For a review appointment, call Christie Peron at (541) 633-2000.

### What is proposed?

DEQ proposes to issue a Solid Waste Disposal Site Registration Permit for the Crook County

Landfill composting operation which is owned by Crook County and operated by the Crook County Landfill, for a period of not more than 10 years.

In September 2009, new rules required new and existing compost facilities to submit information to DEQ for an environmental and human health risk assessment and determine the type of oversight needed for their operations.

Based on the Department's current information, Crook County Landfill's compost operations pose a low risk to the environment and public health. Low risk facilities are required to operate under a Compost Registration Permit.

DEQ proposes to issue Crook County Landfill a Compost Registration Permit and is inviting public comment on the proposed permitting action. During the comment period the public is invited to make comments related to specific conditions within the proposed permit.

### Permit expiration

Oregon law requires facilities with a Solid Waste permit to renew that permit every 10 years. Upon issuance, this permit will be effective for 10 years, expiring on August 20, 2020.

### Who is the applicant?

Crook County  
Crook County Courthouse  
300 NE Third Street  
Prineville, OR 97754

### Where will the Compost facility be located?

Crook County Landfill  
5601 SW Houston Lake Road  
Prineville, OR  
Crook County

### Who might have an interest?

People who work, live, and recreate in the area.

**Land Quality  
Solid Waste  
Eastern Region: Bend**

475 NE Bellevue Dr. Suite 110  
Bend, OR 97701

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Contact: Shari Harris-Dunning  
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Website:  
[www.oregon.gov/DEQ](http://www.oregon.gov/DEQ)

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Notice Issued: 07/19/2010  
By: Liz Clark

**What does the Crook County Compost facility do that can affect land quality?**

The composting operation at the Crook County Landfill will manage a biological process through which organic materials such as leaves, yard debris and manure are converted into a more homogeneous, fine-particle material called compost. Composting can produce significant environmental benefits.

If not conducted in a proper manner or conducted at an improper location, composting can present potential environmental problems.

**What legal requirements apply?**

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 459.205 requires a DEQ permit for any solid waste disposal site. ORS 459.245 authorizes the Department to issue solid waste disposal site permits. Oregon Administrative Rules, Chapter 340, Divisions 93-97 provide further clarification of permit issuance requirements.

**How does DEQ determine what requirements go in the permit?**

Various federal and state regulations apply to a facility depending on the type of industry, the type and amount of solid waste, and the location of the facility. All applicable regulations must be contained in the permit, including the appropriate recordkeeping, monitoring and reporting requirements to ensure compliance with these rules.

**What are the known health effects or environmental impacts of the permitted substances that would be stored, disposed, discharged, etc. by the compost facility at the Crook County Landfill?**

Improperly managed compost operations have the potential to pollute surface and groundwater and can create objectionable odors.

No known health effects or environmental impacts have been identified to date at the Crook County Landfill composting operation site. Feedstocks will continue to include yard debris, leaves and animal bedding and manure from the county fairgrounds.

The area receives less than 9 inches of rain each year. The nearest surface water, the Crooked River, is located about 1.4 miles away. Groundwater is over 350 feet deep and the closest well is from ½ to ¾ miles away.

Throughout the compliance history, malodors have not been detected at the composting area.

Based on the composting location, types and volumes of feedstocks, climate, soil types, depth to groundwater and distance to potential receptors, the site is considered a low-risk site.

**How are the permitted substances measured?**

By the ton or by the cubic yard.

**Compliance history:**

A review of the permit file and facility reports indicates there have been no documented violations or enforcement actions taken by the Department during the term of the current permit. There have been no odor complaints from neighboring properties during the permit cycle.

**What are the special conditions of this permit?**

The Registration Permit outlines conditions of approval in order to operate. These conditions of approval concern the process, methodology and testing for the reduction of human pathogens and meeting the federal criteria for the Process to Further Reduce Pathogens (PFRP).

The Permittee is exempt from financial assurance requirements at this time.

**What other DEQ permits are required?**

None

**What similar activities take place in the vicinity of the facility?**

No other composting facilities are in the nearby vicinity. The composting operation is located at the Crook County Landfill, which handles municipal solid wastes. The Crook County Landfill is also regulated under a DEQ Solid Waste Disposal Facility Permit.

**What happens next?**

DEQ will review and consider all comments received during the comment period. Following this review, DEQ may modify provisions in the proposed Registration Permit, but the permit writers can only modify conditions of the Registration Permit in accordance with the rules and statutes under the authority of DEQ.

Participation in the rulemaking or the legislative process is the only way to change the rules or statutes. Ultimately, if this proposed facility permit application meets all legal requirements, DEQ will issue the Composting Facility Registration Permit.

**Accessibility information**

DEQ is committed to accommodating people with disabilities at our hearings. Please notify DEQ of any special physical or language accommodations or if you need information in large print, Braille or another format. To make these arrangements, contact DEQ

Communications & Outreach (503) 229-5696 or toll free in Oregon at (800) 452-4011; fax to 503-229-6762; or e-mail to [deqinfo@deq.state.or.us](mailto:deqinfo@deq.state.or.us) .

People with hearing impairments may call 711.

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